Nunavut Housing Needs Survey
Fact Sheet – Iqaluit

Background:

The Nunavut Housing Needs Survey (NHNS) is a survey of households in 25 communities in Nunavut, conducted from November 2009 to June 2010. The primary objective of the survey was to collect data on the housing needs of Nunavummiut so as to assist the Government of Nunavut in planning and providing housing. The overall response rate was 69% for Iqaluit.

This fact sheet presents some of the survey results for Iqaluit. Similar fact sheets are available for the territory as a whole and for each region and each community. All numbers in this fact sheet have been rounded. Percentages were calculated from unrounded numbers and the denominator excludes the non-response categories "refusal", "don't know", and "not stated".

More survey information and results are available on the Nunavut Bureau of Statistics' website which may be accessed at http://www.eia.gov.nu.ca/stats/housing.html or you may wish to contact one of our Information Officers at 867-473-2656 or 867-473-2660. Collect calls are accepted.

Survey highlights for Iqaluit:

Housing stock and housing tenure in Iqaluit:

A) Iqaluit had a total of 2,560 dwellings, of which 2,260 were occupied by their usual residents. The remaining 300 dwellings were unoccupied or occupied temporarily by persons who considered their usual home elsewhere.

B) The most common types of dwellings were apartments in a building with two or more storeys (34%) and single detached houses (31%).

C) Of the 2,260 dwellings occupied by usual residents, about 3 dwellings out of 4 were rented while 1 out of 4 was owned.

D) Most of the housing occupied by residents of Iqaluit was classified as government staff housing, which made up slightly more than a third of all occupied dwellings. The remaining occupied dwellings were owner-occupied dwellings, public housing and other types of rented housing, each type representing about 20% of all dwellings.

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State of housing for dwellings occupied by usual residents in Iqaluit:

E) Of the 2,260 households, which is the equivalent of all dwellings occupied by usual residents, about 8 out of 10 were satisfied with the condition of their dwelling.

F) About 12% of occupied dwellings, approximately 260, required major repairs for items such as defective plumbing or defective electrical wiring, a leaking oil or sewage tank, or a broken hot water boiler. The need for major repairs is based solely on the opinion of the respondent.

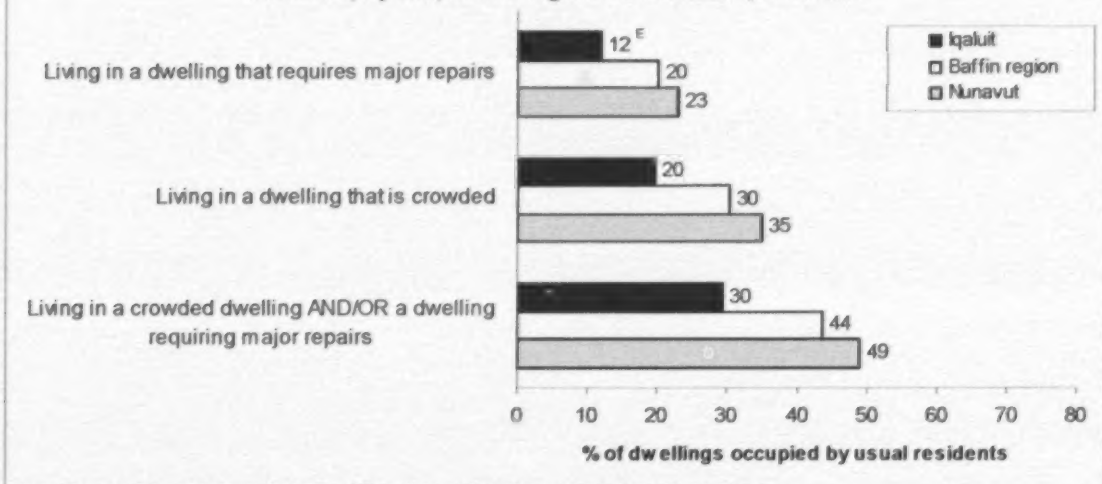
G) Approximately 20% of occupied dwellings (410) were classified as crowded, based on the lack of enough bedrooms. The majority of those dwellings, about 280 out of 410, were classified as crowded because they required one additional bedroom. The other crowded dwellings required two or more additional bedrooms.

H) In slightly more than half of the crowded dwellings, respondents indicated that they regularly used the living room for sleeping because there was no other place to sleep.

I) In Iqaluit, 30% of the occupied dwellings (600) were below housing standards, meaning they were either crowded or in need of major repairs or a combination of both. Housing affordability was not measured in the survey.

J) Public housing had the highest proportion of dwellings below housing standards (52%) compared with other types of housing such as owner-occupied dwellings, staff housing or other rental housing.

Chart 1. Summary of the state of housing for dwellings occupied by usual residents, Iqaluit, Baffin region and Nunavut, 2009-2010



Note: The need for major repairs is based on the opinion of the respondent. A dwelling is classified as crowded if there is a lack of a sufficient number of bedrooms.

E Use with caution as the estimate has a high variability.

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Iqaluit housing needs for dwellings below housing standards:

K) For each person in a household, the survey asked if they would move out if additional housing were available in their community.

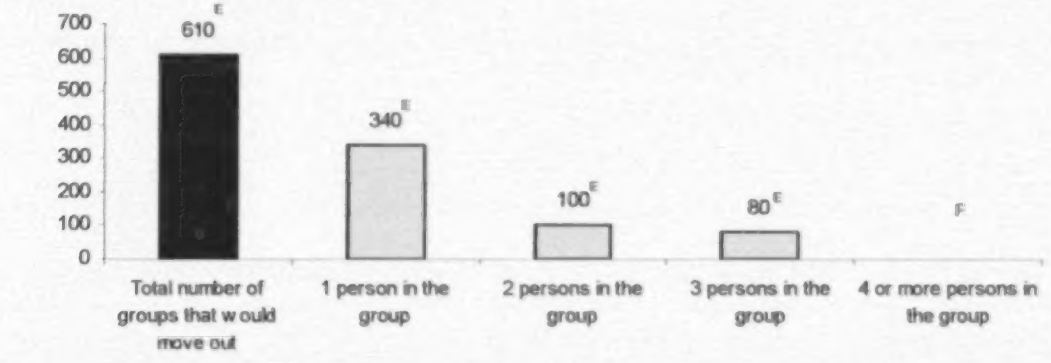
L) In the majority of the occupied dwellings below housing standards, about 370 out of 600, in Nunavut, at least one person or a group of household members would move out if more housing were available.

M) Out of the 2,500 or so persons living in a dwelling below housing standards, about 1,300 of them, or slightly more than half responded that they would move out if more housing units were available in their community.

N) Of the 1,300 people who would move out, some of them would move out on their own and others would move out with people living in the same dwelling or elsewhere. This represents a total of 610 or so groups of people that would move out of their current housing if additional housing were available.

O) This number of groups, 610 or so, represents the number of dwellings that would be required to house the groups moving out of dwellings below housing standards. About 56% of these groups wishing to move would be people moving out alone while approximately 44% would be a group of two or more persons moving out together.

Chart 2. Number of dwellings required to house groups moving from dwellings that are below housing standards by group size, Iqaluit, 2009-2010



E Use with caution as the estimate has a high variability.

F Too unreliable to be published.

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People in immediate need of housing in Iqaluit:

P) About 350 Iqalummiut did not have a usual home at the time of the survey and were living temporarily in another person's dwelling. This represents approximately 5% of the population in Iqaluit.

Q) About 3 occupied dwellings out of 10 housed temporary residents without a usual home elsewhere in the 12 months prior to the time of the survey.

People on the waiting list for public housing in Iqaluit:

R) About 580 Iqalummiut aged 15 years and over reported that they were on the waiting list for public housing. This represents approximately 1 person out of 10 for those aged 15 and over.

S) For those on the waiting list, about 240 persons aged 15 and over reported being on the waiting list for at least one year but less than three years. The data for the other length of time categories is too unreliable to be published.

Please note that most data for Chart 3 is too unreliable to be published.

Telephone and Internet access in Iqaluit:

T) About 1,600 households or 7 out of 10 in Iqaluit had access to the Internet from within their dwelling.

U) The majority of households, or 92%, had a telephone. Most of these households had a regular land line telephone.

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